

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration of this application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The examiner has rejected all claims as being obvious over U.S. Patent 6,013,225 (Cadle et. al.) Applicant's respectfully traverse this rejection for reasons stated below.

Independent claim 1 recites a method for producing powder metal articles that includes the steps of sintering a compacted powder metal preform having a plurality of teeth and then forcibly moving the preform axially through a first die having a particular tooth form profile, namely one having a broadening width region over at least a lead portion of the profile in the direction of axial movement which engages and densifies the teeth of the preform.

A careful review of the examiner's remarks reveals that he has failed to address each and every limitation set forth in claim 1, particularly in connection with the recited tooth profile. Nowhere in the examiner's remarks does he mention any teaching or suggestion in Cadle of providing the forming teeth of the die as having at least a lead portion of broadening width, as called for by claim 1. These limitations can not be ignored. Cadle provides no such teaching or suggestion. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claim 1 over Cadle.

Independent claims 9 and 15 likewise call for the broadening tooth profile of the forming die, which is neither taught nor suggested by Cadle. Accordingly, for the same reasons given above in support of the allowability of claim 1, it is respectfully requested that the examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections of independent claims 9 and 15.

**Appln. No.: 10/821,014**  
**Amdt. Dated October 19, 2004**  
**Reply to Office action of October 8, 2004**

The remaining claims depend, ultimately, on either claims 1, 9 or 15 and are believed allowable for the same reasons. The dependent claims distinguish over one another and their parent by reciting applicants' invention in further detail.

It is believed that this application now is in condition for allowance. Further and favorable action is requested.

The Patent Office is authorized to charge or refund any fee deficiency or excess to Deposit Account No. 08-2789.

Respectfully submitted,

**HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS, P.C.**



**October 19, 2004**

Date

**Robert L. Stearns, Registration No. 36,937**  
The Pinehurst Office Center, Suite #101  
39400 Woodward Avenue  
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48304-5151  
(248) 723-0427